New approach to Olympics

2035. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to select an entirely new team for the forthcoming Olympics so as to encourage new blood;

(b) whether it is a fact that ageing teams and declining talent are being repeatedly fielded for the Olympics;

(c) the details of the new strategies being formulated for the next Olympics;

(d) whether any advice has been sought from foreign sports consultants for this purpose; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed by Government to ensure that there is new approach to Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The selection for participation in Olympics Games is based on sportspersons/teams having qualified/ achieved the qualifying standards/norms fixed by the International Sports Federation/International Olympic Committee (IOC) in identified national/ international competitions. As such, only qualified sportsperson/teams as per the norms/standards fixed by IOC can participate in the next Olympics.

(c) The preparation/training of sportspersons for major international events including Olympic Games is an on-going process which take into account inputs provided by NSFs. Systematic approach is adopted to select and train athletes and teams for participation in the major international events by drawing Long Term Development Programme (LTDP) to put in action four year roil-on Plan under which elite sportspersons selected on the basis of their performance are put through scientifically designed continuous training programme: '

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Government of India supports and supplement the efforts of National Sports Federations. Government of India, in addition to providing sports infrastructure, is taking following steps to improve the performance of sportspersons in the international events including Olympics:

(i) Finalization & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, former international sportspersons and sports/scientists experts.

(ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.

(iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.

(iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams as well Indian Coaches.

(v) Financial assistance to concerned Federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.

(vi) Scholarships to outstanding boys and girls are provided for nutritious diet, sports equipment support and to pursue sports as a career. Scholarships are also given for research in sports.

(vii) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad is proved under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

(viii) Launching of Champion Promotion Initiative to encourage, motivate and support young talents.

Financial assistance for National Games in Jharkhand

†2036. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Games to be held in the year 2007 in Jharkhand;

(b) the policy of Government for providing financial assistance for organizing such games; and

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government for financial assistance, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The National Games are allotted by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.